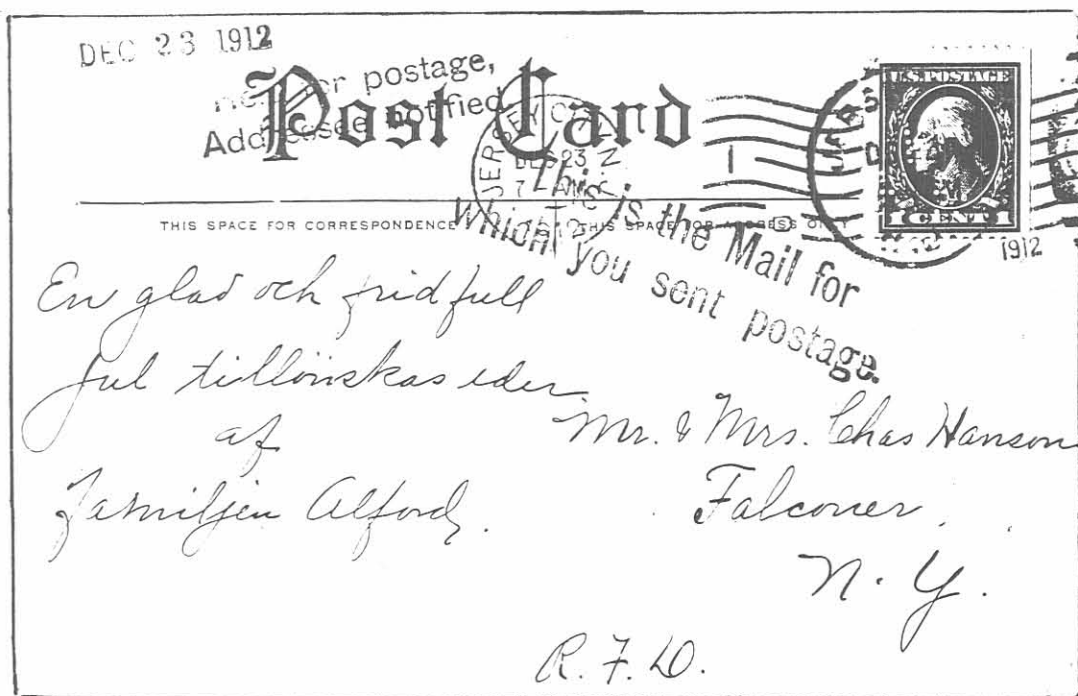
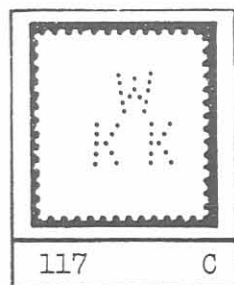


W117 - Inappropriate Usage?

Rudy Roy (#1124)



This picture postcard with a W.K.Kellog perfin, Pattern W117, is an example of illegal usage or is it?

The Jersey City, New Jersey machine cancel is dated December 23, 1912, but it is under the stamp. The Jersey City, New Jersey hand-stamp is dated December 26, 1912. The post office applied the rubber handstamp in the upper left indicating the missing postage was noted on December 23 and that the addressee was notified. The second hand-stamp, near the postage stamp, was applied after the "postage due" was received. This indicates that the perfinned stamp used to pay the postage due was supplied by Mr. or Mrs. Charles Hanson.

Questions abound. Who were the Hansons? How and why did they have

access to Kellog perfins? Since Kellog is located in Battle Creek, Michigan, how did a postage stamp with perfin pattern W117 come to be available to someone in Falconer, New York? Even more interesting, why did the post office accept a perfinned stamp for postage?

Several inferences can be made, though not conclusively. One, Mr. Hanson was connected to Kellog in some manner and was authorized to use their perfins. Perhaps he was the local distributor. Second, Kellog had a branch plant or office in Falconer, New York which used perfins. If either of these conjectures is correct, then the post office would have no difficulty in accepting perfins for postage due. On the other hand, this could be a prime example of "purloined postage" and ignorance or disinterest on



*Blifve den högtid, nu vi gå att fira,
Rikligt välsignad af Herren vår Gud.
Själfr han oss gifve den stillhet i anden,
Hvilken ju höfves hans väntande brud!*

the part of the postal personnel who accepted the perfin.

But, for me, this is a fine example of a delivery delay along with choice exam-

ples of auxiliary postal markings indicating the item's treatment. The question remains -- illegal use or ...?